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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Draft Platform for Action

Addendum

Chapter I

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the removal of all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means also establishing the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centred sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the next century.

2. [The Platform reaffirms the fundamental principle set forth in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.] As an agenda for action, the Platform seeks to promote and protect [the full enjoyment of all universal] all

human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.

3. The Platform emphasizes that women share common concerns that can only be addressed by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender* equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions, and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.

4. The Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just, humane and [equitable] world based on the [universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the] principle of equality [and equity] for all people of all ages and from all walks of life.

5. The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels as well as [adequate] [new and additional] resources for the implementation of the agreements made; a commitment to the equal rights, equal responsibilities and opportunities, and equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

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* The term "gender" is asterisked pending the issuance of a definition of the term requested by a delegation.